

FILED

12/07/2016

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: AF 09-0688

ORIGINAL

December 3, 2016

Montana Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 203003  
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen, I ask that you strongly consider my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons.

Adopting this rule will severely limit the free speech of an entire professional group of people. The first amendment is the bedrock of our freedoms. This will set a dangerous precedent and open the door for other groups to be singled out because of their deeply held convictions and beliefs. Most importantly, this includes religious beliefs. No one should be discriminated against because of their core values and beliefs. This ruling may not allow for an attorney to speak against certain behaviors associated sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status without acting in a discriminatory manner. In doing so, it will limit his clientele and restrict his livelihood.

Not only that, but it is a serious threat to all religious freedom. Lawyers could not represent clients who are faced with challenges in these arenas. They could not freely serve and council church boards in matters related to conscience and faith.

This is an overreach by government that should not be allowed. It is not the purpose of the Court to engineer social issues but to abide by the rule of law for all people. Primary in that rule of law is our freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

I urge you to strongly consider the precedent that will be set by adopting such a law, its unconstitutionality and the long term effects it will have on Montana citizens of all stripes.

Sincerely,

*Dr. & Mrs. David Hafer*

Dr. and Mrs. David Hafer

PO Box 300

Dayton, Mt 59914

FILED

DEC 07 2016

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA